

City Manager's Weekly Update

January 8, 2016

WATER

The New Year is indeed off to a happy start with all the rain we've been getting! Loch Lomond is currently above 66% capacity, there is some flow in the streams, and we still have some (normally) wet months ahead of us.



(1/7/16, Loch Lomond - photo courtesy of Crystal Birns)

In looking back at 2015, our annual production of water was about 2,475 million gallons, which is about 100 million gallons less than 2014. This level of production was comparable to the amount of water produced in the second year of the infamous 1976-77 drought, but you would have to go back 50 years to 1965 when normal production was that low. On the consumption side, we sold 2,263 million gallons of water in 2015, which is about 180 million gallons less than in 2014. But to really put this in perspective, it was about 777 million (or, three quarters of a billion) gallons less than we sold in 2013. Yikes.

The emergency directional drilling for the North Coast Main Replacement project that was undertaken in December to address a significant leak on the system is complete; the main tie-ins are being completed this week and the main should be ready to be filled next week!

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

We don't have much to report in the aftermath of this week's storms given all the preventative work our crews have been doing with the cleaning of storm drains, pump stations and drainage areas. We appreciate the help of City residents in keeping their neighborhood storm drains cleared.

Several months ago we installed barricades along West Cliff Drive to keep people away from the eroding cliff. The pathway was closed this Tuesday to prevent pedestrian/cyclist injuries due to the large waves.

We have also placed roped barricades at Murray Street between Seabright Ave. and the bridge given erosion there, an unstable slope. We are currently working on a solution to this problem.



Plans are underway for Rail Trail Segment 7 Open House on Thursday, January 28, 6-9 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room, 155 Center Street, SC, CA 95060.

Community Relations

Our El Niño Prep Workshop for Spanish-Speaking Residents on January 7 at the Beach Flats Community Center was a success. 85 emergency kits donated by co-sponsors Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Santa Cruz Seaside Company were given out to the earliest attendees. Dozens of sandbags were filled for residents. Indoor tables included Spanish translators for the Fire and Public Works departments, Office of Emergency Services and Home and Property Prep. The American Red Cross, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Santa Cruz County Animal Services also hosted booths. Three television stations interviewed staff and attendees for news broadcasts January 7 and 8: Telemundo 23, Univision 67 and ABC7 News on KOFY.



Plans are underway for San Lorenzo River Parkway Phase II levee lighting ceremony on January 22 at 5:15 p.m. Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird will be the first speaker following introductions by City Manager Martín Bernal. The location is the San Lorenzo River Levee, next to Warriors Stadium adjacent to Laurel Street Extension at site of the new exercise equipment.



Resource Recovery

Waste Reduction staff has been assisting collection staff with the [Christmas tree recycling program](#) this week. Residents can place their trees curbside for pickup until Jan 14.

The new mattress recycling program: Bye Bye Mattress began this week, with free mattress recycling for residents at the Resource Recovery Facility. This is part of the new statewide mattress recycling program managed by the Mattress Recycling Council. Waste Reduction staff is working with the RRF and customer service to get the information to the public. Website page and flyers will soon be completed

Waste reduction staff is working with collections to design an informational sticker to stop people from sleeping in dumpsters. The problem goes up when the weather gets wet. We distributed “Don’t Sleep in Dumpsters” posters and flyers to homeless service providers at the beginning of the rainy season in November and are checking back with them this month.

The 2016 Refuse and Recycling newsletter and recycle guide was mailed to every resident in Santa Cruz during the last week on 2015. Included in the mailing were four service tags and one free disposal coupon.

Our drivers continue to find people sleeping in dumpsters, seeking shelter from the elements. Waste reduction personnel delivered warning/danger flyers to all homeless resource centers and shelters, but we are still seeing this activity on an almost daily basis.



We received our first caged dumpster for cardboard. This will help with identifying contamination before we dump the container into the vehicle.



The Resource Recovery Facility received over 2.5 inches of rain this week. Landfill operations have moved to our winter area and staff recommends wearing boots at the landfill and green waste drop off areas (muddy). The public tipping area is available for drop off; no boots required.

Recycling processing hopes to get caught up this week on processing the mixed recycling. With the holiday work schedule, materials have been piling up.

Landfill staff have been busy this week cleaning catch basins, drains, v-ditches and sweeping to minimize sediment runoff from the landfill and recycling yard.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Operations and Maintenance

Wastewater facility operations and PW Engineering division have planned a kickoff meeting to discuss a project to remove several generations of decommissioned control wiring for the centrifuge operation. Over the last two decades the centrifuges have been modified several times to allow for optimum operation. Several of these upgrade phases have left in place control wiring that is no longer essential. Project goal will be to leave only the active control loops for current centrifuge operation.



Following up on the secondary odor control system upgrade, phase two will start the decommissioning of the prior equipment used for odor control. Operations, maintenance and electrical divisions will start the process of decommissioning the prior odor control equipment.

This involves the removal of pumps, piping, chemical tanks, wiring and conduits that were previously used.



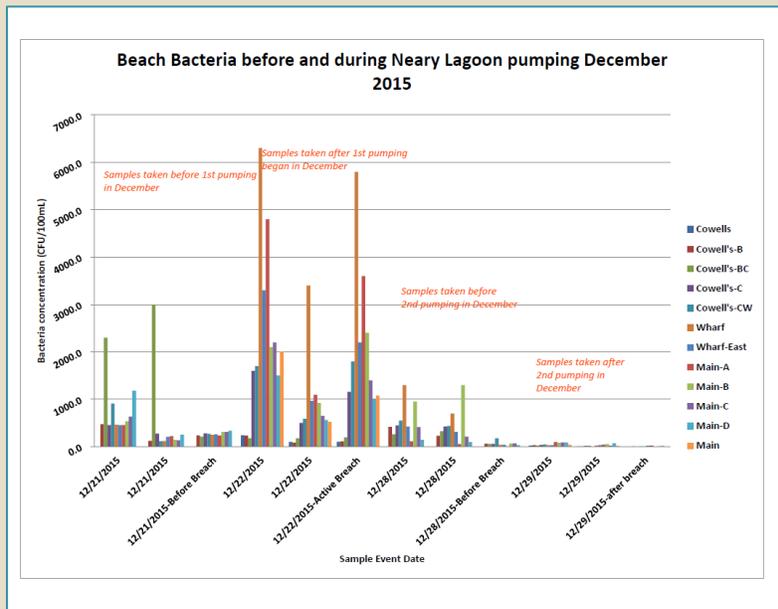
Wastewater Treatment Facility Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

We are currently preparing the Annual Pretreatment Program Report for 2015. In addition we are working with the Storm water management group of Suzanne Healy and Agnes Topp to finalize the mandatory inspection report of municipal facilities under the storm water general permit. The last inspection at the Corporation Yard highlighted critical structural changes that will have to be made to attain compliance with the General Storm Water permit. The picture below indicates one of the areas where immediate structural improvements will need to be made to control the types and concentrations of discharge flowing into the storm drain at the site.



Wastewater Treatment Facility Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

Bacteria monitoring activities continue at locations at Cowell Beach and the Main Beach to evaluate the effects of releasing water from Neary Lagoon into the ocean through mechanical pumping for the maintenance of the lagoon's water level. Initial data collected indicate that the bacteria (*Enterococcus*) levels might have been elevated after the initial release on December 21, but they are not being overly affected by the water release from Neary Lagoon after subsequent discharges. It appears that bacteria levels in Neary Lagoon waters were lower during later releases, and that the bacteria levels at Cowell have also remained relatively low as indicated in the graph below.



PARKS AND RECREATION

City Hall Rose Garden

Parks staff is installing the final touches on the expanded Rose Garden at City Hall. The installation project included an all-weather pathway, drip irrigation, wood chips, and wood borders. The roses are commonly known as *Just Joey*, *Mister Lincoln*, *Hot Cocoa*, *Julia Child*, *Sugar Moon*, *Falling in Love*, and *Strike it Rich*. Winter is the ideal time to plant bare root roses as they are currently dormant and tend to acclimate more effectively and thrive as the weather warms and as their roots establish themselves.



Arana Gulch Grazing

The cows are back in town! This is the second year of cattle grazing at Arana Gulch since the City acquired the property in 1994. Staff has received many positive comments from Park users who enjoy experiencing the cattle. The cattle graze at Arana Gulch to help improve the habitat conditions for the Santa Cruz Tarplant which is vulnerable to extinction. The cattle eat the non-native grasses which grow too tall and dense and out-compete the native wildflowers for sunlight and space. Additional cattle will be placed at Arana Gulch to keep pace with the rate of grass growth

throughout the grazing season. The cattle are removed from the site during the Santa Cruz Tarplant growing season which lasts from mid-June through mid-October. C'mon out and say hello!

Teen Center

The Santa Cruz Teen Center held a December 30 New Year's Eve overnight party aptly entitled, "The End." Fifteen teens hung out with staff, enjoyed an apple cider toast at midnight, and competed for prizes throughout the night. The event ended with a pancake breakfast on the morning of December 31. The Teen Center does 2-3 sleepovers per year and the participants always look forward to the events.

Civic Center

New Truss Motors. Also, this week the Civic had 12 of our truss motors re-installed as part of our annual maintenance schedule that begins after Nutcracker.

Training Host. On January 13th through the 15th the Civic will host the City of Santa Cruz Fire Department's inter-agency 'Confined Space Training' on each of those dates from 7:30am to 4:30pm. A large truck will be parked in the Civic lot during these days as part of the training, and there will be no access to the Civic parking lot Wednesday thru Friday. An advisory will be sent to all city employees.



Louden Nelson Community Center

Fungus Fair. The 42nd annual Fungus Fair is this weekend at the Loudon Nelson Community Center. Learn about the hundreds of beautiful and fascinating species of mushrooms found in the Santa Cruz/Monterey and Bay Area. Find fungi on display in a re-created woodland habitat. This unique Santa Cruz tradition features



three days of fantastic fun, informative speakers and demonstrations with activities for the whole family. A complete line up of activities can be found at SCFungusFair.org.

Walking Group. Senior WAG (Walking Adventure Group) held their 2016 kick off meeting Thursday, January 7th. The group celebrated its accomplishments including two walkers who have already walked a marathon in total miles. The group also got a private tour of the Fungus Fair and learned about many species of mushrooms. WAG happens each Thursday 9:30 – 11:30 am.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Over the past several weeks, there has been some incorrect information circulated relating to the purpose and history of the **Corridor Planning and Rezoning Process**, work that is currently underway. There is an online petition concerned with future 5 to 7 story development along the City's four main corridors and multiple inaccurate threads on NextDoor. In reality, the

project is looking for public input on the best way possible to codify future mixed-use corridor development of 3-4 stories. In addition, there is a privately maintained (Villa Branciforte) website with incorrect preliminary project descriptions, some of which are currently in the early design stage of development. <http://brancifortebulletin.org/>

The inaccurate information presented in these venues has been prolific and aggressive.

To continue to reach out to interested residents, the Planning Department has scheduled a series of open houses. These drop-in times will not be structured and will provide an opportunity for anyone to get more information about the development standards and potential public improvements being considered. The attached flyer will be circulated to the Corridor Advisory Committee and has been posted on NextDoor, which is available to approximately 8,000 people. Please forward this information to anyone who might be interested in this process. The web site for information on the Corridor Plan is also a great source for ongoing information about the work underway.

<http://www.santacruzcorridors.com/>



CorridorDropIn.pdf

2424 Mission/Sunset Inn: The Planning Department recently received an application to demolish this 32-room hotel and construct a new 60 room hotel on the site. According to the plans, the new hotel will be a *Hampton Inn*. The project requires Design and Administrative Use Permits to be approved by the Zoning Administrator at a public hearing, which is expected to occur this spring. Mike Ferry is the planner working on the project.

1307 West Cliff Drive: This week, the Zoning Administrator approved Coastal and Design Permits for a fairly extensive remodel of this residence, which is the only one on the ocean side of the West Cliff Drive path. The lot is actually zoned Ocean Front Recreational, which does not allow residential uses, so the existing residence, constructed in the 1940's, is a legal, non-conforming use. City staff has been working closely with the applicants to make sure the project is, in fact, a remodel, and not a demolition, as there are significant zoning consistency issues if the latter occurs. At the hearing, there was a fair amount of testimony from nearby residents who were mostly concerned with the change in the appearance of the structure; some were of the opinion that the residence is historic, though it's not listed on the City's list of historic structures. We also received correspondence from Coastal Commission staff, among other things, questioning the permit status and history of the rip rap that is protecting the existing residence from bluff erosion. The applicant provided a copy of an Administrative Permit approved by the Coastal Commission in the 1970's for the boulders. The project is appealable to the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Coastal Commission. Ryan Bane is the planner working on the project.